

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /071 W

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R 041655Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1454

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SP DA

SUBJ: DANISH GOVERNMENT REACTION TO NEWS OF DEATH PENALTY
FOR BASQUE NATIONALISTS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1) THE DANISH GOVERNMENT REACTED QUICKLY TO THE
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A SPANISH MILITARY COURT IN BURGOS HAD
PASSED DEATH SENTENCES ON TWO SPANISH BASQUES FOUND
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GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER. ON SEPTEMBER 3, THE DANISH

PRESS AGENCY (RITZAU'S BUREAU) CARRIED A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN EXPRESSING "... DEEP CONCERN THAT TWO BASQUE NATIONALISTS IN BURGOS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH ON AUGUST 29". ANDERSEN WENT ON TO STATE THAT "THE DANISH PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT ARE FOLLOWING THIS CASE WITH GREAT ATTENTION AND HOPE THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN SPAIN WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LIVES OF THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION WILL EXERCISE MODERATION THAT THE LAWS OF HUMANITY PRESCRIBE AND WHICH, CLEARLY, WOULD BE IN SPAIN'S OWN INTEREST ALSO." ANDERSEN ALSO NOTED THAT THE SENTENCE HAS BEEN APPEALED IN THE SPANISH SUPREME COURT.

2) FIVE SPANIARDS RESIDENT IN DENMARK, MEMBERS OF THE "SPANISH LABOR COMMITTEE" HAVE BEGUN A TWO-DAY HUNGER STRIKE IN FRONT OF THE SPANISH EMBASSY HERE IN ORDER TO PROTEST THE BURGOS SENTENCES. ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE PROTESTING SPANIARDS, THEIR ACTION IS SUPPORTED BY THE "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A GROUPING OF BOTH SOCIALIST AND NON-SOCIALIST OPPONENTS OF THE FRANCO GOVERNMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2) COMMENT: THIS REACTION IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE DANES TO WHAT THEY CONSIDER "FASCIST" ACTIONS IN SPAIN, REGARDLESS OF THE MERITS OF THE PARTICULAR CASE. EVENTS SUCH AS THESE TEND TO FORTIFY THE DECISION OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO REFUSE ANY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY NATO OF THE CONTRIBUTION BY SPAIN TO THE OVERALL SECURITY AND DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH02546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-0234
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750981/aaaactpd.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH GOVERNMENT REACTION TO NEWS OF DEATH PENALTY FOR BASQUE NATIONALISTS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006